
CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
A Consortium of Health Care Facilities
Dedicated to the Care of the Trauma Patient

CENTRAL REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2004
Benefis Healthcare, Great Falls, MT.

PRESENT: Michael B. Orcutt, MD, CRTAC Chairman, Great Falls
Pete Lucas, RN, CRTAC Secretary, Great Falls
Carol Kussman, RN, Helena
Jeff Chelno, PA, Chester
Carol Tadge, RN, Fort Benton
Myron Frydenlund, Shelby
Beverly Zehntner, RN, WWS
James Zehntner, EMT, WWS
Yvonne Hunnywell, Fort Benton
Linda Williams, Fort Benton
Riki Handstede, RN, Havre
Vickie Neumiller, RN, Conrad

GUESTS: Kim Todd, RN, Montana State Trauma Program Manager
Thom Danenhowe, State Injury Prevention Program Coordinator

ABSENT: **Representatives from:**

Cutbank	Fort Belknap
Rocky Boy	Big Sandy
Browning	Townsend

Secretary Pete Lucas, RN at 1230 p.m., called the Central Montana Rural Trauma Advisory Committee (CRTAC) to order. A Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium planning committee meeting was held prior to the CRTAC meeting. Benefis Healthcare hosted a lunch prior to the meeting. Roll call was taken. The minutes of the last meeting were re-capped and approved.

STATE TRAUMA CARE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: The next STCC meeting is set for Monday May 10th, 2004 in Helena. Kim Todd, RN, State Trauma Program Manager gave an oversight of the STCC Montana Trauma Plan rollout. Please see attachment for details.

INTER-FACILITY TRANSFER GUIDELINES: These are guidelines to be used by facilities to steer their transfer choices. These guidelines need physician perusal and suggestions. Please see attached.

CRTAC SUBCOMMITTEES:

- 1. Injury Prevention and Public Education:** Pete provided an overview of upcoming courses offered in Great Falls and the region. Pete elicited dates of upcoming educational opportunities to include a PHTLS (Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support) course available in Choteau on April 24-25. The RTAC educational grant should be able to offset all of the course costs. A STN (Society of Trauma Nurses) course will be held in WSS in the end of May. The "Safety First" rally will be held in Great Falls on June 26th this year and will feature bicycle and skateboard helmets, as well as safety packs for skaters. TNCC (Trauma Nurse Core Course) will be held in Havre in the fall, and ENPC (Emergency Nurses Pediatric Course) will be held in Helena, also in the fall.

2. **Pre-Hospital:** Linda Williams reported that there are some courses (GEMS, TBI) available. The new “bubble sheets” for pre-hospital documentation are cumbersome to use and were discussed. The subcommittee is encouraging people to attend RMRTS in September. A resource list is being made to provide resources for mutual aid. A suggestion was made to solicit the numbers of PHTLS certified EMT’s in the state, place QI indicators, and evaluate if the education has made an impact on trauma care.
3. **Regional Trauma Plan:** No report available at this time.
4. **Quality Improvement:** No cases were available for review. Dr. Orcutt emphasized there should be an open and free exchange of information, not criticism. Telemedicine is a viable avenue for reviews and a confidentiality statement will be sent to those participating for signature and then kept under separate minutes. Benefis Healthcare will provide 2 interesting cases for review at the next CRTAC meeting.

STATE TRAUMA REPORT: Kim shared a power-point presentation on the newly updated “White Crosses” report. Injury death rates in Montana are 41% higher than the national average! This staggering statistic is even higher than the data presented in the original “White Crosses.” The presentation is on CD-rom and will be available soon. Kim also discussed resource maps for each region to include: # facilities, surgeons, EMS agencies, and contact personnel at facilities, etc. to be available soon. The trauma registry may be too cumbersome to smaller facilities, causing a less than desirable use of the program to glean valuable data. The Western RTAC has developed a simple two-page abstract for data. **See attached** and please provide input by next meeting in July.

STATE INJURY PREVENTION REPORT: Thom shared with the committee a whole host of injury prevention strategies to include common ways to estimate injury frequencies and costs. **Please see attached information. Also included in this mailing are the EMS & Injury Prevention Information Memo and the Trauma Scorecard.** An important topic of discussion ensued concerning a resource list of what is available in the state to include: BT contacts, Psychiatric bed availability,? Victim Advocacy programs, etc. All members identified this as important and a valuable guide. Thom also shared that there will be a Summit on Methamphetamine problems in Montana in early June. Three individuals from pre-hospital, FD, etc. will be identified to possibly participate.

CRTAC EDUCATION GRANT FROM THE GENERAL FUND: The CRTAC will soon receive another \$5000 grant for help defray costs of providing education to the region. All of the RTAC’s have received the \$5,000.00 grant to facilitate the rollout of the new Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) course, as well as the Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) course within the regions. The intent of the money is to defray costs to facilities and pre-hospital personnel. Pete provided an overview of the courses with the only stipulation being that the course is held within the region at hosting facilities, or contains regional participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 1400 after roundtable.

The next CRTAC meeting will be in Great Falls on July 22, 2004 in the DuFresne auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Lucas, RN, TNC
Secretary, Central RTAC
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